THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per para 5.3 of the Export Import Policy, import of all second hand goods is restricted.

However, import of metallic waste including scrap, seconds and defectives, waste papers, woollen rags/synthetic rags/shoddy wool and PET botttle waste/ scrap has been specifically allowed to provide cheaper raw materials to the domestic industry for further value addition.

Import of second hand capital goods which are not more than 10 years old is also allowed. This is because many times second hand capital goods in excellent condition are available in the international market at very competitive prices. The Policy thus privides the requisite flexibility to the entrepreneur to take his own decisions based on techno-economic evaluaton of the project.

The policy seeks to establish the right balance between the interests of the domestic capital goods industry and the need of the user industry to take advantage of the favourable conditions in the international market.

Trade with EU Countries

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the Chief Trade Negotiator of the 15 nations' EU, India is now at the top of his priorities after US and Japan, and with the support of key developing countries *viz* India, Brazil and Egypt he can reverse the failure to launch the new round in Seattle last December;

(b) if so, the target of trade with EU countries fixed as well as achievements made during the current financial year till 29th February; and

(c) whether it would give boost to agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Mr. Pascal Lamy,Trade Commissioner of the European Commission (EC) had a meeting in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry during his recent visit to India, in which he had emphasised the importance attached by European Union to further improving and strenghening the bilateral economic relations; and understanding with India. During discussions, though Mr. Pascal Lamy sought the support of India to the EC's proposal for the launch of a new round of negotiations in this year, India reiterated her concerns and exchanged views on various multilateral/bilateral trade issues.

(b) and (c) No specific target has been fixed for bilateral trade between India and the EU countries. Bilateral trade between India and the EU countries during April 1999-December 1999 for which data is available amounted to Rs. 63,460.33 crores. (US$ 14,673.21 mn). During the visit of Mr. pascal Lamy to India, the two sides had also exchanged views on measures to promote bilateral trade, including trade in agricultural products.

Tea Board's Budget Allocation

3099. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tea Boards' Budget allocation has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is going to adversly affect the working of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey Conducted by Foreign Companies

† 3100. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have conducted surveys in the country during the last five years for setting up Industry;

(b) the number of companies which have expressed desire to set up industries in certain specified areas;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what are the names of the above companies; and

(e) what is Government's opinion in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) Sir, several consultancy agencies do take up general as also specific study/survey on the potential of investment on behalf of their clients. Companies that desire to set up industries in India either apply for Government's permission to invest in India, or avail of the automatic route. Cases requiring Government's permission are dealt with under the current guidelines.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.